

ORIGIN/ACTION

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AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT

INTER-AMERICAN HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : CINCSO FOR POLAD, Amembassy TEGUCIGALPA, SAN SALVADOR, MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, DOD

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: 11-25-67

SUBJECT: Weekly Internal Security Report: 11/16-23/67

REF :

Summary and Comment

1. Last week's high level of political violence continued for another week. The most spectacular incident, which received the widest press coverage was the kidnapping of millionaire rancher and industrialist, Carlos HERRERA Dori6n. He was taken in front of his house in Zone 1 by 5 men wearing "police" uniforms. Press reports a ransom of Q150,000 is being demanded.

2. There is still much mystery surrounding the case. While the ransom note reportedly bore the letterhead and signature of the FAR, the press has reported receiving denials from the FAR that they are implicated. The head of the Judicial Police, Stuardo Garcia Gomez, further complicated the issue by announcing that as far as he was concerned, the case was closed.

3. Garcia reversed this stand on November 24th, when he called a press conference to announce that his police forces had "frustrated" an attempt to pay all or part of the ransom.

4. An intermediary for the Herrera family had been intercepted on the way to the rendezvous, numerous police forces had surrounded the area, but the presumed kidnapper fled. Nonetheless, two suspects have been arrested, and the investigation continues. The police official reminded the public that "intermediaries" and family members who attempt to pay ransom in such

Enclosure: List of Incidents

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REVIEWED BY *Eij* DATE *Oct 1967*
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cases are subject to arrest and penalties under the law.

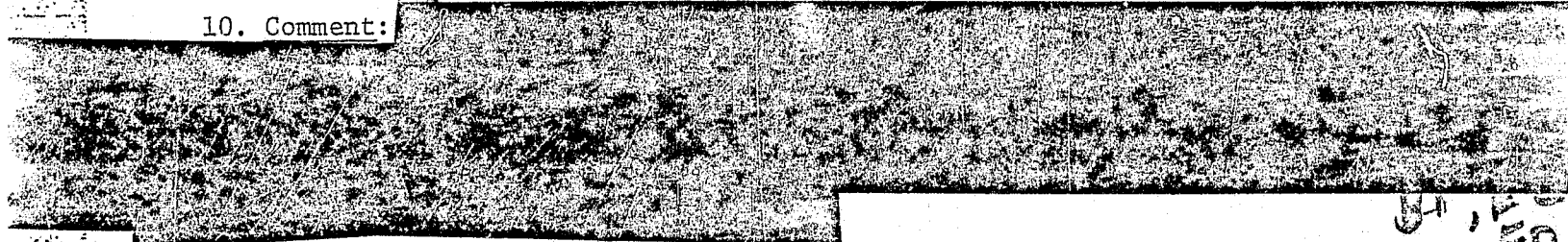
5. Another incident of interest was the report from Totonicapan that 3 bodies, presumed to be guerrillas, had been found between Totonicapan and Solola. They bore no identification papers but were carrying subversive literature and grenades were reportedly found near two of the bodies.

6. There were several reported attacks on members of the security forces. The first occurred on November 22 when unidentified men in a small truck fired on policemen in a radio patrol car who were guarding the home of Deputy Director of National Police. The police returned the fire but the attackers escaped unharmed and unidentified. The other 2 incidents occurred on October 23. In the capital, a police patrol car was reported fired on, and in the ensuing exchange of fire one of the presumed guerrillas was wounded and later captured. A bomb, a .45 caliber automatic and other tools of the terrorist trade were confiscated. Two of the presumed terrorists escaped.

7. Finally, the chief of the National Police in Chimaltenango was threatened if Rogelia Cruz Martinez, who is in police custody, is harmed. According to the press, she was taken into custody when she became involved in an automobile accident but she is being held because letters tying her to the guerrilla cause were found in her car. The threats to the Police Chief say that if she is harmed, he will be dealt with "an eye for an eye" and that if she is not released the FAR will free her as they freed Mario Botzoc in April (see Week 14  *EC*)

8. Another item that received wide attention was the publication of a list purportedly put out by the FAR of 52 persons who were accused of being imperialists and of giving aid to the MANO. According to the flyer, they would all have to begin paying up money to the FAR, and some of them would also pay with their lives.

9. There were also more activities of armed bands reported in the Departments of Escuintla and Jutiapa and several more kidnappings (and a foiled attempt) of non-prominent persons in the Department of Guatemala.

10. Comment: 

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LIST OF INCIDENTS

- Nov. 16 - Unidentified body located 11 kilometers from Capital on the Roosevelt Highway, Dept. Guatemala. Corpse had been decapitated. No motive known.
- 16 - Armed band entered home of Pedro Mejía Serrano in Moyuta, Dept. Jutiapa, shot and killed him. No motive known.
- 16 - Armed band entered home of Jose Manuel Morales Jiménez, finca El Rosario, San José, Dept. Escuintla, and gravely wounded him with gunshots. Motive unknown.
- 17 - Machinegun-armed men kidnapped Marcial Donis Monterroso and José Pablo Rivas from their capital homes according to their wives. No motive known.
- 17 - Unknown machinegun-armed men kidnapped Alberto Muñoz Garrido from his Zone 5 home. No motive known.
- 18 - Armed band raided finca Aguná, Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa, Dept. Escuintla, killed Administrator Rafael Villalba, and stole Q1,200. No motive known.
- 20 - Armed band of unknown men attacked and badly wounded Bernardo Recinos Figuero at his parcelamiento in La Gomera, Dept. Escuintla. No motive known.
- 21 - Three bodies of presumed guerrillas located in Alaska, Dept. Totonicapan. Press reports they had FAR literature and paper with AEU seal with them, and 2 grenades were found nearby.
- 21 - Band armed with submachine guns entered home of Francisco Godoy Ortega, killed him, badly wounded his wife and a servant, and stole Q4,000. No political motive known.
- 21 - Five men, reportedly dressed in uniforms of the National Police, kidnapped wealthy finquero and businessman Carlos Herrera Dorión. Ransom (press reports say Q150,000) has been demanded. The case is still shrouded in some mystery. The FAR has denied to the press that it is responsible and Chief of the Judicial Police, Stuardo García Gomez, is claiming the case is closed.
2. Minister of Government Hector Mansilla Pinto told press that pacification of country was primary goal of his Ministry in 1968.

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- Nov. 21 - Attempted kidnapping foiled in El Guayabo, Dept. Guatemala. Alberto de Jesus Felipe wounded as he prevented 3 armed men from kidnapping Angela Augusta Ramirez. No motive known.
- 21 - Flyer signed by the FAR circulated in the Capital. It named 52 persons whom it accused of being imperialists and of giving support to the MANO. Flyer said all would have to pay "revolutionary cause" with money and some would be shot. FAR Central Region Headquarters has denied list is FAR work.
- 22 - Shots fired by men in small truck at crew of radio-patrol car guarding house of Deputy Director of National Police Carlos Salazar Bonilla. Identity of attackers unknown.
- 22 - Stick of dynamite thrown from car at Zone 7 home of Rodrigo Santiago, internal auditor of the National Cotton Association. There was considerable damage to his car and some damage to his house and other houses in neighborhood.
- 23 - Press reports police radio patrol attacked in Zone 5. Presumed guerrilla, José Galvez Chinchilla, wounded and captured and a bomb, a .45 caliber automatic and other terrorist paraphernalia confiscated. Two other presumed terrorists escaped.
- 23 - Chief of Police in Chimaltenango threatened if Rogelia Cruz Martinez, in police custody, harmed. Letter, signed FAR, apparently arrived in AEU envelope using franking privileges. Text of letter claims Cruz Martinez is FAR member and that if she is not freed, she will be "sprung" as was Botzoc Hércules in April.

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